

Citations: Why? When? How?

- To give proper credit to others' work
- To support your arguments and factual claims
- To ground your work in the broader scientific context
- To give a trail for readers to learn more about the topic.
- To demonstrate your awareness and understanding of other work in the field and establish your credentials as a researcher.

failed massive objects and lower-mass dwarf-sized galaxies (e.g., Lim et al. [2018, 2020](#); Doppel et al. [2021](#)).

The cluster environment offers additional evolutionary pathways to explain cluster UDGs. One possibility for cluster UDGs is that they started as otherwise normal dwarf galaxies but have been dynamically heated and “puffed up” by interactions within the cluster (Moore et al. [1996](#); Carleton et al. [2019](#); Liao et al. [2019](#); Tremmel et al. [2020](#)) or after gas is ram-pressure-stripped by the intracluster medium (Safarzadeh & Scannapieco [2017](#)). UDGs that are satellites in groups and clusters have also been shown to form by tidal stripping of otherwise normal galaxies either with (Carleton et al. [2019](#)) or without (Sales et al. [2020](#)) cored dark matter halos. However, not all cluster UDGs may have formed in response to the cluster environment; simulations show that a significant fraction of UDGs found in clusters may have been an object “born” as UDGs in the field environment and later accreted into the cluster (Sales et al. [2020](#)).

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- When making general statements about past work on a topic: “Previous studies have shown that galaxies in clusters are preferentially red [citations].”
- When giving factual data that someone else worked out: “The distance to the Virgo Cluster is 16.5 Mpc [citation].”
- When supporting an important claim that you are making: “Tidal stripping should affect low mass galaxies more than massive galaxies [citation(s)].”
- When planning to test a particular model, theory, or result: “Our observations will test tidal stripping models such as those of [citation].”

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Astronomical Literature (Please use this format!)

Parenthetical (Author Year) in text, full citation in list at end.

- Single author: “Tidal tails are visible for 1-2 Gyr (Mihos 1995)”
- Two authors: “Galaxy mergers trigger starbursts (Mihos & Hernquist 1996)”
- Three or more authors: “The distance to VCC615 is 17.7 Mpc (Mihos et al 2015)”

Citations at end listed in alphabetical order.

- Format: Author(s) Year, Journal, Volume, Page or Article Number
- Example: Mihos et al 2015, ApJ, 638, 17

List multiple citations in chronological order: “The Virgo Cluster contains many diffuse galaxies (Binggeli et al 1996, Mihos et al 2015, Ferrarese et al 2019).”

If your sentence references the work specifically, only the date is parenthetical: “The models of Mihos et al (1995) have shown that....”

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Physics Literature (Please **do not** use this format!)

Bracket [Number in end list] in text, full citation in list at end.

- Single author: “Tidal tails are visible for 1-2 Gyr [3]”
- Two authors: “Galaxy mergers trigger starbursts [12]”
- Three or more authors: “The distance to VCC615 is 17.7 Mpc [25]”

Citations at end listed in order of appearance in text.

- Format: Number, Author(s) Year, Journal, Volume, Page or Article Number
- Example: [15] Mihos et al 2015, ApJ, 638, 17

List multiple citations in order of appearance in end list: “The Virgo Cluster contains many diffuse galaxies [12, 17, 32].”

If your sentence references the work specifically, just cite via citation number: “The models of [17] have shown that....”

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Other notes:

- Direct quoting is extraordinarily rare. Do not quote your sources, just summarize their findings and give citation.
- Citations should be to journal articles or works published in scientific monographs (books).
- Websites (including NED and ADS) are typically not appropriate as cited source. If you get data using NED, look at the citation NED gives for the data, and cite that source directly.
- For examples of how citations are used, look at the (good) proposal example and the journal articles you find.